

REMARKS

Claim 1 and 3-31 are presently pending. The Examiner is thanked for the courtesy extended during the interview on June 15, 2006. The Applicant concurs with the Summary of the Interview of the same date.

Claims 1, 3, 4, and 27-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,853,234 to Bentley et al. Independent claims 1 and 31 have been amended as discussed at the interview to include a circumferential manifold surrounding the outlet. Independent claim 27 already includes such a limitation. As stated in the Interview Summary: such “[s]ubject matter [is] not shown in prior art of reference.” Applicants submit the claims are now patentable over Bentley et al.

Claims 5-11, 25 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bentley in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,778,739 to Rodth. Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bentley in view of Rodth and further in view of EPO 0449533. Claims 13-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bentley in view of Rodth and further in view of EPO 0455337. In view of the amendments to claims 1 and 25, from which these claims depend, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are patentable over the applied references.

Claims 25-31 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The Office Action stated it was not clear what the difference was between the recited “manifold” and “inlet chamber,” and that the two elements appear to overlap in the description of the device. In one exemplary embodiment, as illustrated in FIG. 19, the cartridge is disclosed as including an inlet chamber 26 and a manifold 16. (*See also, e.g., Applicants Spec., pg. 15, lines 12-24.*) As a result, Applicants submit that independent claim 27 complies with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The Office Action also stated it was not clear what the difference was between the “inlet” recited at line 3 of claim 25 and the “inlet” recited at line 8. Applicants have amended the recited “inlet” at line 8 to be an opening. Support for this amendment is shown in FIG. 5 and the accompanying disclosure. As a result, Applicants submit that independent claim 25 now complies with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 and 3-31 are respectfully requested.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required with respect to this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1135.

Respectfully submitted,

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